

Ministry of Government Relations



Plan for 2018-19

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Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable
Warren Kaeding*

*Minister of Government
Relations and Minister
Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Government Relations Plan for 2018-19.

The plan sets out the strategic goals and objectives for the year ahead. It is also designed to assist our clients, partners and stakeholders to build stronger, safer communities across the province. Our ministry is committed to reporting our progress in meeting the objectives outlined in this document. We will provide a more detailed accounting of those efforts in the ministry's 2018-19 Annual Report.

Since 2007, Saskatchewan has enjoyed record levels of economic growth and infrastructure spending, along with continuing increases to our population. However, the downturn in our resource industries has presented the province with fiscal challenges.

Government Direction and Budget for 2018-19 is focused on keeping Saskatchewan On Track by controlling spending, delivering high quality services for Saskatchewan people, keeping our economy strong, and returning to balance in 2019-20.

We will work with our partners to achieve that goal as we maintain the financial foundation for strong future growth in our communities. We need to plan today to ensure prosperity for tomorrow. The Ministry of Government Relations works collaboratively with government partners at the federal, municipal and community levels. Through teamwork and a shared vision, we help those we serve realize the opportunities of growth and address the challenges that come with it. Together, our governments are helping enhance the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to keeping the province On Track through prudent fiscal management. We will succeed by spending wisely, supporting economic growth, and ensuring services are sustainable.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth
and opportunities for
Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges
of growth

Securing a better quality
of life for all
Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive
and responsible
government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2018-19 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The ministry is responsible for municipal relations, public safety, and First Nations, Métis and northern affairs. The ministry engages a diverse range of partners and stakeholders to: plan for and respond to the opportunities and challenges of growth; provide leadership and direction so that integrated public services are available to communities and their residents; and support responsible governments.

Vision Statement

Building, planning, and protecting thriving communities

Government Goals



Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Support growth and sustainable municipal opportunities

Ministry Goal

Communities are effectively governed and prepared to manage growth

Strategy

Enhance regional and municipal governance and planning to manage public services and economic opportunities and challenges

Key Actions

- ⇒ Lead a regional planning dialogue to discuss successes and challenges with planning district commissions and other regional planning groups.
- ⇒ Provide support and technical assistance to regional planning organizations to help improve their ability to facilitate development and advance the provincial growth agenda.
- ⇒ Amend *The Planning and Development Act* to resolve challenges around creating municipal reserves for new schools and introduce options to facilitate development.
- ⇒ Assist municipalities in meeting their legislated responsibilities by delivering advisory services using up-to-date, reliable tools and channels, such as webinars and online resources.
- ⇒ Develop an online subdivision application system to improve client and inter-ministry services.
- ⇒ Administer and deliver services to communities in the Northern Administration District to serve Northerners.

Strategy

Leverage federal funding and provide funding to support provincial and municipal interests

Key Actions

- ⇒ Partner with the federal government, municipalities, and First Nations communities to ensure prudent and effective delivery of federal/provincial infrastructure funding, such as the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, the New Building Canada Fund, and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan.
- ⇒ Review the Municipal Revenue Sharing program to examine its sustainability.



Strategy

Work with local governments to improve community sustainability and affordability

Key Actions

- ⇨ Support municipal efforts to develop asset management planning expertise to contribute to effective stewardship of infrastructure assets and to meet the requirements of the federal Gas Tax Fund agreement.
- ⇨ Develop a cannabis guide for municipalities detailing provisions of how municipalities can apply applicable municipal legislation in their communities.

Performance Measures

Annual municipal funding

Funding will be provided to municipalities through several programs to support provincial interests in municipal priorities, including municipal infrastructure and revenue sharing.

Percentage of the population represented in Planning Districts

The ministry encourages municipalities to engage in regional planning activities such as: establishing planning districts, helping build municipal sector capacity, mediating inter-municipal disputes, and delivering cost-effective services and infrastructure.

Percentage of the population living in municipalities with official community plans

Official community plans set out policies to govern land use and development, outline the municipalities' economic growth strategies, encourage environmental stewardship, plan sustainable infrastructure, support recreational opportunities, and address community interests.

Number of sites approved with conditions to prevent unsafe development on hazardous lands

Requiring subdivision developments to have proper disaster mitigation standards in place before sites are approved will limit impacts from potential disasters, such as slope instability and flooding.

Government Goals



Sustaining growth
and opportunities for
Saskatchewan people



Meeting the challenges
of growth

Securing a better quality
of life for all
Saskatchewan people



Delivering responsive
and responsible
government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Promote and support safe, healthy, and vibrant communities

Ministry Goal

Safe communities that are prepared for disasters and emergencies

Strategy

Improve and promote provincial and municipal emergency preparedness, risk mitigation, communications, response and recovery

Key Actions

- ⇨ Review and update the provincial emergency plan with other ministries and stakeholders.



- ✚ Enhance and integrate emergency coordination policies, procedures, and infrastructure.
- ✚ Improve information and data sharing with other ministries and stakeholders related to emergency events.
- ✚ Enhance training and support of emergency personnel across government.
- ✚ Review, maintain and enhance the technological infrastructure to support emergency response.
- ✚ Assist with community emergency planning.
- ✚ Support the operations of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency.
- ✚ Work with insurance industry stakeholders and the federal government to monitor the implementation of private overland flood insurance in Saskatchewan - particularly its impacts on provincial disaster assistance and federal cost-sharing - and provide updates as required.

Strategy

Promote the construction, renovation, and fire safe operation of buildings, facilities and equipment

Key Actions

- ✚ Distribute information and provide workshops to building owners, industry, municipalities, building officials, fire officials and others.
- ✚ Provide and promote training and education in building, fire, and emergency response technologies and services.
- ✚ Raise awareness of recent regulatory amendments adopting new codes and standards through regular communication with industry stakeholders and consumers.

Performance Measures

Number of communities participating in SaskAlert program

SaskAlert is the Government of Saskatchewan's emergency public alerting program that provides critical information on emergencies in real time. Tracking the number of communities participating in the program will display program outreach, impact, and room for improvement.

Percentage of population covered by building bylaws

86.4 per cent of the province's population live in municipalities with building bylaws, which help to ensure people live and work in safe buildings. Ongoing efforts by the ministry, as well as inter-ministry and agency co-ordination, will increase the implementation by municipalities of building bylaws approved under *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*.

Government Goals



Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Improve outcomes for First Nations and Métis people with an additional focus on those who live in the north

Ministry Goal

First Nations and Métis and northern interests and perspectives are integrated into government decision-making and commitments



Strategy

Engage and collaborate with First Nations, Métis and northern specific representative organizations, federal and municipal governments on provincial priorities

Key Action

- ⇧ Support projects and community events that benefit the economic or social lives of First Nations and Métis people throughout Saskatchewan.
- ⇧ Facilitate engagement within and between communities to advance reconciliation.
- ⇧ Collaborate to advance priorities of First Nations and Métis people, including communities in the north, to improve community vitality and economic opportunities.
- ⇧ Support government's integrated planning initiatives in La Loche and neighbouring Clearwater Dene Nation to improve quality-of-life for First Nations and Métis people in those communities and elsewhere in the north.

Strategy

Lead and facilitate cross ministry work to support government's efforts to enable First Nations and Métis to have equal access to provincial opportunities

Key Actions

- ⇧ Support and collaborate with other ministries to deliver on Government of Saskatchewan priorities and identifying new priorities and related policy and program initiatives, in relation to First Nations and Métis people and communities in the north.
- ⇧ Work with other ministries, Crowns, and agencies to maximize the opportunities arising from the federal approach to First Nations and Métis peoples.

Strategy

Coordinate consistent government-wide implementation of the Duty to Consult policy, Treaty Land Entitlement agreements, and facilitate other agreements

Key Actions

- ⇧ Deliver workshops and training materials to assist government officials, other partners and stakeholders to improve understanding and implementation of the First Nations and Métis Consultation Policy Framework.
- ⇧ Develop training modules for government officials to facilitate consistent First Nation land claim implementation
- ⇧ Provide policy guidance and facilitate activities that support agreements to address specific challenges.

Performance Measures

Number of information sessions and workshops held

Conduct information sessions and workshops to increase awareness of government's obligations to the Duty to Consult and Treaty Land Entitlement implementation processes.

Number of acres transferred to reserve status

Progress on this measure is a key indicator of the ministry's success in meeting the provincial obligations related to Treaty Land Entitlement and contributing to the acquisition of shortfall acres by all Entitlement First Nations and additional land up to a maximum acreage specified under each Treaty Land Entitlement agreement.



Number of grants provided under the First Nations and Métis Consultation Policy Framework

This measure identifies the number of grants and amount of funding provided to support the participation of First Nation and Métis communities in consultations with government where a duty to consult is triggered. More grants reflect a greater level of participation, which facilitates relationships and informs government decisions.

Number of events and projects supported through First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs grants

Supported projects assist in improving the lives of First Nations, Métis and northern citizens by helping to promote safe communities, strong families and improved education and economic development opportunities. Supported events benefit communities by assisting them to hold important public gatherings that help highlight the value of Aboriginal cultures and education; recognize youth, elders and veterans; promote cultural understanding; and advance reconciliation.

Government Goals



Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Provide responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Effective and efficient client-centered programs, policies, and services

Strategy

Ensure the ministry's legislation, regulations, and policies align with government's commitment to be effective partners in supporting growth and enhancing the quality of life for Saskatchewan residents

Key Actions

- 1. Ensure municipal and First Nation interests and authority are reflected in provincial cannabis framework and legislation.
- 1. Review and improve municipal and public safety legislation and regulations to meet evolving needs.
 - ↳ Advance amendments to seven public and technical safety statutes to improve ministry/Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan enforcement and compliance measures.
 - ↳ Consolidate *The Controverted Municipal Election Act* into local government election legislation, improving and updating both in the process.
- 1. Deliver strategic amendments to municipal legislation and regulations that position municipalities to better plan for and manage growth and development issues.
 - ↳ Amend municipal legislation to accommodate provincial legalization and regulation of cannabis and ride sharing (Uber, Lyft).
 - ↳ Evaluate substantive amendments for the three municipal Acts to be proposed in 2019-20.
- 1. Review ministry business-related regulations to keep current, remove red tape, and ensure labour and trade mobility.
 - ↳ Complete Red Tape Reduction Committee review of dedicated lands regulations and statements of provincial interest.
- 1. Distribute gaming revenues as prescribed in *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* and the 2002 Gaming Framework Agreement.

Highlights

Key announcements from the Ministry of Government Relations' 2018-19 budget include:

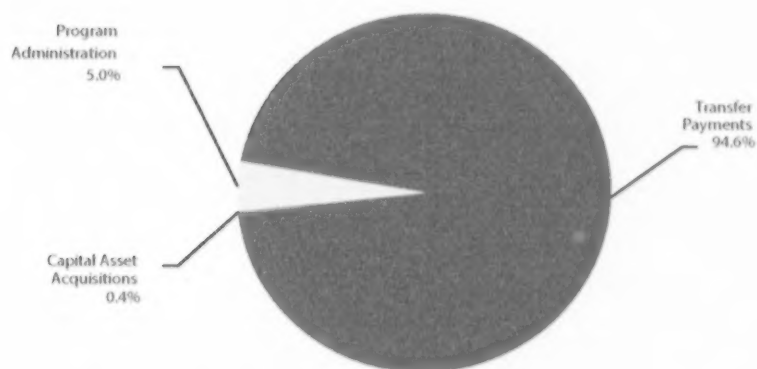
- ✦ \$241.1 million for municipal revenue sharing funding, consisting of:
 - ✦ \$155.0 million to urban municipalities;
 - ✦ \$68.1 million to rural municipalities; and,
 - ✦ \$18.0 million to northern municipalities.
- ✦ \$205.2 million for municipal infrastructure programs, consisting of:
 - ✦ \$126.7 million to meet project commitments under various infrastructure programs, including:
 - ✦ \$83.2 million under the New Building Canada Fund;
 - ✦ \$37.4 million under the Clean Water Wastewater Fund; and,
 - ✦ \$6.1 million under the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund.
 - ✦ \$15.0 million to support Saskatoon's North Commuter Parkway Bridge; and,
 - ✦ \$63.5 million in flow-through municipal infrastructure funding provided by the Gas Tax Program.
- ✦ \$74.0 million for gaming agreements, consisting of:
 - ✦ \$52.1 million for the First Nations Trust, which supports the First Nations Addictions and Rehabilitation Foundation, and distributes funding to First Nations communities in Saskatchewan;
 - ✦ \$19.2 million for Community Development Corporations, which support social, economic and business development proposals located in communities surrounding Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority casinos; and,
 - ✦ \$2.7 million for the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, which supports Métis economic development.

Financial Summary

2018-19 Estimates	(In thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$9,250
First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs	\$78,254
Municipal Relations	\$481,795
Saskatchewan Municipal Board	\$1,786
Public Safety	\$10,127
Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network	---
Total Appropriation	581,212
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(\$2,280)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$2,881
Total Expense	\$581,813

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget>.

Ministry Spending by Appropriation Category



For More Information

Please visit the ministry's website at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/government-relations>.